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The Reaction



PRIME MINISTER WILSON



SEN. MIKE MANSFIELD, D-MONT.



SEN. RICHARD RUSSELL, D-GA.

... We cannot support an extension of the bombing in such areas, even though we were confident that the U.S. forces would take every precaution, as always, to avoid civilian casualties ... We must dissociate ourselves from an action of this kind. ... The opportunity for bring all the fighting in Viet Nam to an end is open to Hanoi. ...

... Will make the road to the negotiating table that much more difficult. I think also it will bring about greater amounts of aid (to North Viet Nam) from the Soviet Union and Peking ... will not deter infiltration of North Vietnamese into the south, although it may slow it for the time being. End result may be increased infiltration.

... Not only should we destroy the (oil) depots, but every facility in North Viet Nam that contributes to lengthening American casualty lists. I do not think our air attacks will bring China into the war, although they may send planes over to attack our striking aircraft. We have exhausted every effort to negotiate.

STATINTL

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Critics Hit Bombing Decision, Russia Sees 'Dangerous Step'

The Johnson administration was blasted at home and abroad today as a result of the decision to bomb targets around the major North Vietnamese cities of Hanoi and Haiphong. President Johnson had nothing to say.

Several senators sharply criticized the bombing, while others voiced support.

Moscow radio called today's raids a "new dangerous step by the U.S. ruling circles in expanding aggression against the Vietnamese people."

"Contrary to all the lessons of history," it said on its domestic service, "the U.S. government is resorting to banditry and force in blind rage at the knowledge of its own helplessness."

British Prime Minister Harold Wilson expressed regret over the raids and said Britain could not support them.

Sees Talks Hampered

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield said the bombing indicates a new stage in the war and "will make the road to the negotiating table that much more difficult."

"I think also it will bring about greater amounts of aid from the Soviet Union and Peking," the Montana senator told reporters.

Mansfield said the destruction of North Vietnamese facilities "will not deter infiltration" of North Vietnamese into the south, al-

He said he thinks the end result may be increased infiltration.

Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., told the Senate that "in my judgment, this shocking outlawry on the part of the Johnson administration in Southeast Asia should at least symbolically lower to half mast every American flag everywhere in the world."

"It demonstrates to the world," he said, "that the greatest threat to the peace of the world happens to be the United States."

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